



US Army Corps  
of Engineers

# wilmington District News

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## Dredged material becomes nesting haven for sea turtles

By Susan Dwyer and Trudy Wilder

The Wilmington District and sea turtles have something in common. They both like to beneficially use dredged material! The District annually dredges beach quality sand from the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway (AIWW) Inlet Crossings and places the material on nearby beaches. This is a part of normal U.S. Army Corps of Engineers dredging project. Topsail Island is, historically, a natural nesting ground for the threatened Loggerhead Turtle. Without the added sand, the eroded beaches would offer no place for the turtles to lay their eggs. With Corps assistance, the dredged materials provide nesting for the Loggerhead, an occasional Green turtle, and even the Kemp's ridley, the most rare sea turtle in the world.

The Loggerhead sea turtles routinely nest at night, slowly crawling ashore, digging out a nest cavity about 2 feet deep

with the use of their back flippers; depositing approximately 120 Ping-Pong ball size eggs; burying the nest; and returning to the sea. About 60 to 75 days later the hatchlings emerge from the nest, normally after dark, and head for the open sea.

It is estimated that only 1 out of every 10,000 hatchlings makes it to adulthood, so it is easy to understand why they are threatened and endangered. As the hatchlings emerge they are vulnerable to predation by ghost crabs and awaiting fish in the surf. Loggerheads have a longer life span than humans do, about 100 years. They can grow to well over 200 pounds. But only a



Endangered Sea Turtles get help from Corps, Turtle Hospital

very small percentage make it to the maximum age or size. As they get older they become prone to illness brought about by pollution, boat prop injuries and fishery nets. The average age of adulthood is approximately 25 to 30 years. It is easy to see the importance of providing habitat for the breeding of as many hatchlings as possible.

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# 2001 Operations Plan will make sure "our ship comes in"

By Penny Schmitt

Fifty-five district TEAM members hammered out a Year 2001 Operations Plan in early June, enjoying Cape Fear River breezes during their breaks. The riverside location was an apt location for a meeting designed – as DDPM Eugene Tickner put it – to set “ships” in motion that will bring productive work for the nation into our future.

The US Army Corps of Engineers project management process is characterized by careful study and long lead times. In order to be ready to go to work on construction or other major project efforts two, three, five, or seven years from now, District strategists must be planning far into the future.

“We have a bubble here,” said COL Jim DeLony, pointing to his rough chart of the District’s seven-year profile. “That’s the Wilmington Harbor Project. Out in 2006 and 2007, when the bulk of our construction is done, we will not be using our full talents and capacity on behalf of the States of North Carolina and Virginia, on behalf of the nation, if we don’t start to look for our future goals today. I know that we need to maintain a \$120 million baseline program, to sustain the kind of technical and professional expertise that’s needed to support national Civil Works needs. That’s why we do this Operations Plan!”

As they have for the past six years, the District Operations Planning TEAM worked intensively for two days to come up with a set of objectives for the coming year. Bill Hatch, the TEAM’s long-time facilitator, reminded all that the objectives we wrote must be



The 2001 Operations Planning TEAM

“SMART”—that is, specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, trackable. On day one, work groups brainstormed objectives in four Balanced Scorecard categories: Capable Work Force, Corporate Outreach, Managing Technology, and Business Practices. This year, a fifth work group created Customer Satisfaction objectives as well.

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## Operations Plans continued

(Continued from page 2)

Day two's discussion resulted in 19 objectives that will guide the District's operations for the coming year. Along with objectives that reflect our bedrock goals—mission execution, safety, investing in people—the TEAM created several new objectives designed to focus our efforts on reaching out effectively to federal and non-federal customers who need support with inherently governmental activities.

As the session ended, Tickner sketched a picture of the future successes the group had launched. "To be vi-



able, we need to be embarking on a new starts in '02, '03, '05, '07. Now look what we've done in the plan—I see we are going out to visit Universities to find the new young talent we will need for the future, we are focusing on our strongest competencies and figuring out how we can put them to best use, we are reaching out to our state and local government partners, we are refining and recommitting to excellent customer service."

"That's a great picture, folks," he said. "Those ships are going to move out. You have seen to it that we will be busy—not just in business. Great work!"

## June blood drive was a success because of YOU!

By Susan Dwyer

Thanks to everyone who participated in the blood drive Friday, May 26<sup>th</sup>. The Red Cross collected 26 productive units of blood for their bank.

If you give blood at the Red Cross, please inform them you are donating for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Wilmington district. You could receive a free T-shirt, and help represent the Corps Family.

The next mobile blood drive at the district building will be held in August. It will probably be on a Thursday to co-ordinate with our schedules.

*Historic article shows we've come  
a long way,  
53 years ago, in August 1947,  
this story appeared in the  
Wilmington, NC newspaper*

**E**NGINEERS' OFFICE – The United States Engineers' office is one of the oldest federal agencies in Wilmington. It is the agency, according to local authorities, who has done the most in bringing out the potential possibilities of eastern North Carolina in the way of navigation.

The office was opened in 1885 on Second Street, just south of Market Street. Later it was moved to the third floor of the old post office where it remained until 1916. At that time it was moved to its present quarters in the customhouse.

At the beginning, there were about five employees. Now, it comprises between 25 and 30 engineers, draftsmen, accountants and administrative workers. In addition there are approximately 250 field employees. Equipped with the latest technical instruments, the office is the last word in engineering efficiency.

**WORK ON THE RIVER** –The Cape Fear River, with its length of 320 miles, the largest stream in the state, is the waterway on which the engineering office has spent most of its time toward improving. Since 1821, either the state of North Carolina or the United States government has been working toward improving the stream from a navigation standpoint.

Prior to 1761, it was reported that a depth of 14 feet at low tide was available over the bar at the river's mouth. Fourteen miles below Wilmington, its depth was reported at seven and one-half feet.

In 1761, a severe equinoctial storm made a breach through the outer banks about eight miles above the present entrance. This breach making a new mouth to the river was named the New Inlet. It was made famous during the Civil War by blockade-runners.

**U.S. TAKES OVER**—In 1829; the United States government took active charge of the river improvements. In 1829, again in 1954 and once more in 1870 improvements to deepen the main channel was authorized. That was done by the construction of jetties and by the closure of the New Inlet.

The closure of the New Inlet was finished in 1881. It cost approximately \$600,000.



## Sea Turtles continued

(Continued from page 1)

"The only things that hurt adult turtles are human created," said Ms. Beasley, executive director of the Karen Beasley Sea Turtle Rescue and Rehabilitation Center at Topsail Island. "Pollution, boat propellers and fishing nets are the top things."

Many things can be done to slow down the number of injuries. One very simple solution is to have outboard motor manufacturers install a cage-like cover that is made to protect anyone or anything that comes into contact with the propeller. The cages cause no difference in the performance of the motor, and they stop propeller injuries to turtles, and other extremely endangered sea animals, such as the Manatee.

Topsail Island is a good example of how the Corps and the turtles benefit from beach disposal. On an average, approximately 200,000 cubic yards of beach quality material is placed on the island, mainly 2,000 feet south of New River Inlet and 2,000 feet from Topsail Inlet. The material for these areas comes from the AIWW New River Inlet Crossing and Topsail Inlet Crossing. The material is placed on the beach at the natural contour, and shaped to avoid escarpments, which would inhibit turtles from coming ashore to nest. Escarpments form when sand piles up against the high tide line which forms a wall of sand at the waters edge. Skeptics have said that the threatened sea turtles would not nest in sand that had been on the beach for less than two years, but one nest was found in new sand within 10 feet of the dredge pipe.

"I moved it anyway. That was a little too close for me," said Ms. Beasley.

The District partners with all the volunteer sea turtle programs in

North Carolina. Many volunteers, under the direction of Ms. Jean Beasley, make the Topsail Beach Sea Turtle Program possible. The Program has assisted numerous times during placement of dredged material on Topsail Island. Their expertise and assistance is priceless, especially when the beach requires monitoring if we are disposing of material during the sea turtle nesting season (May 1 through November 15). The volunteers monitor the beach daily at sunrise, locate nests, and monitor the hatching success of each nest. Another key to the surviving of sea turtles is the "Karen Beasley Sea Turtle Rescue and Rehabilitation Center," better known as the "Sea Turtle Hospital." The volunteers run the hospital and it goes without saying that it takes hard work, perseverance, and much dedication to the survival of sea turtles to keep the hospital running. It is a non-profit organization that runs solely on donations. In May of 2000, the hospital patients consisted of 8 Loggerhead (threatened), eight Kemp's ridley (most endangered), and 3 Green (threatened and endangered) sea turtles. Anyone interested in volunteering should contact Ms. Beasley at 910-328-1000. Information can also be found on the web site, [www.seaturtlehospital.org](http://www.seaturtlehospital.org).

Topsail Island, like many beach communities appreciates the Corps efforts to beneficially place the dredged material on their beaches. Ms. Freddie King, Topsail Island Commissioner said, "We'll take every grain of sand you'll give us." Ms. Beasley considers it a three-way partnership between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the preservation of sea turtle habitat, and the benefits to beach goers – "this is a project that benefits all."



Seabeach amaranth also benefits from dredge materials.

Recycling the dredged material also assists in the protection of another threatened species, seabeach amaranth. Seabeach amaranth (*amaranthus pumilus*) is a plant species that inhabits our beaches, and assists primarily in stabilization of the beaches and dunes. The District's Environmental Resources Section annually surveys all of our beach disposal and renourishment projects in an effort to monitor the survival of the species.

The Wilmington District's dredging program and sea turtles that nest on our beaches are benefiting in a most positive way. The District is returning (recycling) beach quality material to the beaches and supplying a nesting place to allow sea turtles a better chance to survive a world impacted by human disturbance.



Trudy Wilder greets a friend.

# District showcases Hurricane Preparedness at EXPO 2000

By June Pauley

Project Impact Partners held their second Hurricane Preparedness EXPO on Saturday, June 3, at the UNC Wilmington Campus. More than 8,000 people visited the 100 partners/vendors exhibits, including private sector, local, state and federal agencies.

The Wilmington District brought two exhibits. The Emergency Operations office staffed a booth describing our emergency response and offered storm surge maps of New Hanover, Brunswick, and Pender Counties to the public.

The Flood Plain Management Office sponsored a visit by the Charleston District's three-dimensional Riverine Flood Plain Model, which proved to be a huge success. Featuring thunder, lightning, flood waters and even a small-gauge railroad, the model shows several ways to reduce flood damages, including

- Raise structures above the 100-year flood elevation
- Relocate structures above the flood plain
- Use a dike as protection.

The model also showed how floods could be made more severe by in-fill from development, or by blockages in watercourses and culverts.

The Project Impact Partners created the biggest Disaster Preparedness EXPO that anyone has ever seen before. We were all excited about showing the public what they can do to prepare for the next hurricane, whether it be this year or later. Let's all be prepared this year for whatever nature brings us!





*The following stories center around one of Wilmington District's flood control projects, W. Kerr Scott Lake. They also feature one of our primary concerns—the public's safety. We invite you all to visit and enjoy one of our five flood control projects and its associated recreational facilities this summer. We want you to enjoy our beautiful lakes—and to return home safely!*

# W. KERR SCOTT

## IS A SLICE OF HEAVEN IN THE MOUNTAINS

By Susan Dwyer

Leaving the hustle and bustle of the city, fighting the traffic to get out of town, hitting the Raleigh-Durham area at 4 p.m. is all worth it to get to Wilkesboro, NC. The mountains appear on each side of the road and the temperature drops 10 to 15 degrees. Wilkesboro is a small town, with quite a few attractions. A favorite of many is the W. Kerr Scott Reservoir.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers built the W. Kerr Scott Dam in 1962, creating the beautiful lake with its 125 miles of shoreline. W. Kerr Scott helps to control flows from the Yadkin-Pee Dee rivers, which inundated the area with major floods in 1899, 1916 and 1949. The Flood Control Act of 1949 authorized the building of the reservoir. It was funded in 1960, and completed in 1962. There are two designated camping areas that require a user fee, but the lake and its boat ramps are open to the public, free of charge.

The Visitors Assistance Center is a site of beauty all by itself. An updated version of a log cabin estate is what you see when you come into the main drive. As you walk through the front door, the center appears to be a casual, modern museum, with information on nearly everything you could want to know about the recreational area. The lake and center are dedicated to William Kerr Scott, a former Governor of North Carolina and U.S. Senator, and a trailblazer for the interest in the development of water resources. Displays showcase local wildlife and explain natural resource management, including forestry projects, wildlife at the lake, and an explanation of the rings of life, or the rings you find in wood. Interpretive displays discuss flood control, along with information on some of the past floods. The Recreation exhibit emphasizes water safety, showing models of all the different buoys, with descriptions and explanations of their meanings. Water supply information is also available. The exhibits in-



New visitor Assistance Center gives a beautiful welcome to the public.

clude a history of the Yadkin River Valley, showing points of historic interest.

Straight through the visitor center, out the back door, you'll find a magnificent view of the lake, dam and the beautiful scenery surrounding the reservoir.



Safe boating is a joy at W. Kerr Scott Lake.

The grass is manicured, not a blade out of place. Something else that stands out is the lack of trash. There is none anywhere to be seen. There are people fishing from the banks of the lake. Occasionally a boat rides by, as well as PWCs (Personal Water Craft).

*(Continued on page 7)*

## W. Kerr Scott continued

(Continued from page 6)

As the summer approaches, the boats and the PWCs will ride by more frequently. The Visitors Assistance Center will educate more and more people of all ages, and everyone will know how to have a safe and happy time at W. Kerr Scott Reservoir.

The new center is part of a Corps-wide push to upgrade recreational facilities. "We were fortunate to be selected," said Dan Keir, Park Manager. There are new Visitors Assistance Centers at Falls Lake, Philpott Lake, Kerr Lake and W. Kerr Scott Lake. The Corps opened a campaign to upgrade recreational facilities in 2000. The Wilmington district was chosen out of 17 other submissions in the United States. The Corps set aside \$50 million a year available for rectifying projects over the next six years. The money will be used to build new restroom facilities, enlarge

Tom Freeman enjoys a display at the Scott Visitor Assistance Center.



campsites, give each and every campsite electric and water hook-ups and make the roads in and out of the camping areas more efficient. This program will also allow the Corps to separate day campers from overnight campers. The Wilmington district has sent in three submissions for 2002. If these are chosen, it will enable us to make these improvements at John H. Kerr, Philpott and W. Kerr Scott lakes. The final decision will come from Washington, DC.

## And the newest forester is . . .

By Heather Campbell

It was another beautiful day in the loblolly pine stands of John H. Kerr Reservoir. The smell of timber-marking paint hung lightly in the pollen-filled air. Mosquitoes danced in the air like angels. Ticks and red bugs lovingly attended the marking crew as they trudged through the forest. Poison ivy grew tall and strong as young trees. The bright sun lighted a way for the weary timber markers. All in all, it was a wonderful day. After a day of sweat and paint thinner, the crew returned home, discussing plans for the evening . . . a shower with much scrubbing, a big meal, a nap on the couch, a little television.

Not me. I had to go home and study. The North Carolina Registered Forester Exam was only a few short weeks away.

My weeks before the test were spent gathering books and notes that covered nearly every subject I studied over four years at Virginia Tech. I surrounded myself with post-it notes, highlighters, formula sheets, bookmarks, scales, calculators and many, many pencils. The time got near. How do you study for a test that encompasses everything? I didn't know either.

May 10, 2000. The day has come. I rise before the sun does and set out for Goldsboro. I arrive at the Cooperative Extension Office and, lifting with my knees for safety, carry in my box of goods. The facilitator mentions that we may take lunch and breaks whenever necessary. It's 8:00 a.m. and we have until 5:00 p. m.

to complete the test. The kindly facilitator places what I think at first is the Mecklenburg County phone book in front of me. It's the test . . .

It's time for lunch and my stomach is growling, but I don't notice. I'm writing and reading frantically and have only completed a few pages of the test. I have gone through a plethora of pencils, and have changed batteries in my calculator already. Five o'clock will be here before I know it. And it is. It's five o'clock and several people are still scrounging for those last few answers. They have to be in some book, somewhere in this room—but where? The facilitator gives us more time—it's almost 6:00. I have not left my metal chair since I sat down early in the morning. I try to stand up, and slowly make my way to the facilitator with a heavy heart. I return to the table and pack. As I leave the room that has been my home for 10 hours, I think bitterly of foresters who never had to take this exam. The Board of Registration for Foresters just made the test a requirement last year. This is another example of my terrible timing!

I passed! And so did my brief bitterness. Passing the test was a serious accomplishment that few foresters in North Carolina have had the opportunity to experience yet. It's kind of like passing the bar exam. I hope the Corps continues to encourage its employees to get their professional registrations. Thanks to my TEAM for their confidence!



# Ranger Willie B. Safe

By Susan Dwyer



The Willie B. Safe Team in Uni form.

The Southeastern Missouri Ozark foothills are the home of Wappapello Lake, a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers project operated by the St. Louis District.

Representatives of Wappapello Lake project office were at the recent Wilmington District Water Safety Forum to demonstrate their special program, called "Ranger Willie B. Safe."

Andrew Jefferson, Park Ranger, also a minister, hosted the "Ranger Willie B. Safe" presentation, a series of skits and safety materials. Kathy Dixon, Park Ranger Trainee and illustrator, and Donna Adams, Administrative Assistant and songwriter also played extremely important roles in the presentation. The first thing you notice about this team, (and they do work as a team) is their energy. They explained how they used brainstorming exercises to come up with this extremely creative program. The Wappapello team created Willie B. Safe. The first idea was for Willie to be... kind of dopey. He then evolved into the respectable person it takes to be a park ranger.

Park Ranger Jefferson started the video; he then suddenly pulled a T-shirt on over his head, turned his baseball cap backwards, and started rapping. Ms. Dixon and Ms. Adams started dancing and clapping. They really got the audience involved. Smokey the bear, Woodsy the owl and Buddy the beaver joined in for a dance and a song.

During a 10-minute video, they got important messages across about water safety. The team has many great ideas on how to spread the safety idea. Billboards and inserts in local utility bills are just a few.

The local newspaper runs a cartoon ad on a daily basis, and there are programs that can be implemented into the schools.

In the Willie B. Safe activity book, children learn, "Never swim alone- It's the wrong thing to do, 'Cause if something goes wrong, Then who will help you?" Another lesson is, "You learn to read & write, And to sing & dance. You should learn to swim as soon as you have a chance!" The catchy lyrics will stick in young people's minds forever.

The creators of the Ranger Willie B. Safe campaign want it to be known that Ranger Willie represents the Spirit of Safety. He uses the "Thumbs Up for Safety" gesture. Children and adults alike use the "Thumbs Up" to show they have taken the safety course and that they are safe. The "Thumbs Up" gesture should be returned when given. This program covers bicycle safety as well as water safety. The Wappapello Water Safety team has won many awards for this work, both locally and nationally, and they have probably saved lives too.



District TEAM members and partners from Nashville and St. Louis Districts at the Water Safety Forum.

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## Willie B. Safe Continued

(Continued from page 8)

The ambitious crew from Wappapella has the video, the activity book, screen savers and an audio-cassette with five wonderful songs. One of the songs is "The Story of Willie B. Safe."

### The Story of Willie B. Safe

*...Here's the story of Willie B. Safe.*

*As a kid, he was prone to accidents around the lake.*

*But as he grew, he learned how to avoid danger.*

*Now, he's a Corps of Engineers Park Ranger,*

*Teaching all the kids what safety means.*

*And he wants you to be a part of his safety team!*

*Willie B. Safe is here to show,*

*All the sons and daughters,*

*The safety lessons they need to know,*

*When they're around the water.*

*Willie says tell her or him,*

*The first rule is LEARN TO SWIM!*

*And tell all the girls and boys,*

*Don't depend on inflatable toys.*

*Put on a life jacket or PFD!*

*It's the safest thing for you and me.*

*Remember, if you fall out of the boat,*

*They float and guess what? You don't!*

*Willie says that to stay alive,*

*Around lakes and rivers NEVER DIVE!*

*Even if you may be bored,*

*Think about your spinal cord.*

*And whether the water's clear or muddy,*

*You should always SWIM WITH A BUDDY!*

*In a place that is safe to be,*

*Where those watching you are sure to see.*

*If your boat tips over, stay with it, DON'T GO!*

*And if someone falls out, know what to throw.*

*Something nearby that floats will do,*

*Or hold out a paddle and pull them to you.*

*Never pretend to drown, what a fright!*

*And horseplay just isn't right.*

*Stay away from alcohol and drugs,*

*You'll be around for LOT'S MORE HUGS!*

All of the Willie B. Safe material can be ordered online, just visit the National Water Safety Products Advisory Council website at <http://watersafety.usace.army.mil>, or you can call the Wappapello Lake Project Office at (573) 222-8562

## FWP education subcommittee initiative pays off for the district

By Gloria Harris

Thanks to Corps of Engineers TEAM members and their response to the Federal Women's Program Education Interest Survey conducted by Gloria Harris, the Education Subcommittee Chairperson, much needed and wanted software classes took place in April.

FWP member Debbie Holt efficiently researched, came up with a proposal, and presented the contract options to management. Cape Fear Community College was chosen as the vendor. Robert Jordan coordinated the classes. His professionalism in working with the instructors, setting up classes, and scheduling Corps TEAM members for training is to be highly commended. Robert also did an outstanding job of contacting TEAM members on standby when vacancies opened in the classes.

As a result of the training, Corps TEAM members are more proficient in using WORD, the Internet, Excel, and Powerpoint. Feedback tells us the classes were excellent. Thanks again to all who made the initiative possible!



### Wicker rows to victory-

Henry Wicker, of the Washington Regulatory Office, stays on the waterways during his spare time. On May sixth, he was a top finisher in the United States Canoe Association's Aluminum Stock Canoe National Championships, taking second place. Henry finished the race in one hour and 51 minutes, only 3 minutes off the time of the first place finisher. He grew up on the Lumber River, and has twice paddled with his father down to Georgetown South Carolina—a distance of 350 miles!

# WATER SAFETY FORUM

## *studies how to keep the public safe*

By Susan Dwyer

**VACATION!** The battle cry of the working class. Many travel to lakes, oceans, or at least a place with a swimming pool, to relax and cool off. Unfortunately, drownings are one of the biggest causes of death in the United States.



Mike Large and Kevin Salvia show two ways to rescue someone in the water.

- Water related deaths target the 16-25 year-old age group the most.
- Males die more often than females.
- Drugs and alcohol contribute to nearly 50 % of all water deaths.
- Ignorance contributes to nearly all the rest.

According to "The Steward", a publication of the North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation, there were 500,000 visitors, by March of this year, at Falls Lake, Kerr Lake and Jordan Lake.

The picturesque scenery at W. Kerr Scott Lake set the scene for the "Water Safety Forum 2000." Representatives from all five Wilmington District projects attended. Other representatives were the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police department, Wilkesboro Community College, Centerville Lake, Wildlife Resources, the U.S. Coast Guard, the N.C. Safety Council, the U.S. Army, fire departments and one local citizen that just wanted to learn more about water safety. People came from all over North Carolina, Virginia, Atlanta, and Mis-

souri to discuss ways to educate and protect the public.

"Safety of our visiting public is most important for our lakes," said Andy Duncan, Manager at W. Kerr Scott.

R.G. Absher, Assistant Operations Project Manager and Chief Park Ranger at W. Kerr Scott, welcomed everyone to the forum. Mr. Absher packed the two-day forum with information, hands-on workshops, and viable solutions to many of the problems that face park officials.

The diversity of the visitors creates the need for variety of ways to get the message of "Water Safety" across. Some launch huge boats and fly across the lakes on personal watercraft. Many others bring towels and just play in the water.

"The Hispanic community is growing in numbers at every lake. They account for 40 percent of fatalities on the lakes," said Brad Kessler, SAD. Many Hispanics don't speak, or read English. Signs should be posted in Spanish, as well as English. Basic safety messages include:

- Learn to swim!
- Only swim in designated swimming areas.
- Always swim with a buddy.
- Always wear a personal floatation device (life jacket).
- Use the "Thumbs Up" signal.

"Education should start in the classroom," said Daniel Brown, Philpott Lake. "We try to get them by the third grade." Education can be a partnership. There are many safety campaigns. Art contests get the kids interested. Some of the winners get their drawings displayed on billboards. The cost of



Tom Freeman and Roger Bullock enjoy a lively conservation with new friends.

such an endeavor is high, but some of the representatives at the forum told of partnerships between the YMCAs, public schools, city and county officials and anyone else that wants to help.

Many new laws affect recreational water users. These laws have decreased the fatalities. People are charged with BUI (Boating Under the Influence), if they are caught driving a boat while drunk. "It's .08, just like in a car," said Lewis Johnson, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Dept. Lake Norman.



R.G. Absher ties the knot?



Tom Freeman demonstrating boating safety.

Many stories were shared at the "Water Safety Forum 2000." Some had happy outcomes, many did not. In any case, putting all ideas, stories and suggestions out for everyone to hear prompted many great ideas to educate and protect the public.





### A breathtaking bride--

Latise Stokes, Regulatory, is now Latise S. Bradley.

On April 22, 2000, at Warner Temple AME Zion Church in Wilmington, Latise married Aldric L. Bradley. After five years of dating, they became husband and wife in a big, beautiful wedding.

An anonymous guest (Oweita Freeman) said, "The bride was breathtaking."

A reception was held at St. Thomas Preservation Hall, followed by a honeymoon in Cancun Mexico.

### Eagles Class of 2000--

A 9 a.m. ceremony gave David and Margaret Craven (Cost Engineering section) an opportunity to celebrate with their youngest son, Jacob Craven, as he graduated from Burgaw Middle School, WITH HONORS! On May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2000



### Young Citizen--

Ashley Ren Holt, daughter of Ren and Debbie Holt, IMO, received a few awards in the last few weeks.

Ashley is the 2000 recipient of the "Young Citizenship Award" for Roland

Grise Middle School. This is an award that is nominated and selected by Faculty and Administration and presented

by the Exchange Clubs of America, Wilmington Lower Cape Fear Chapter.

This prestigious award recognizes the outstanding achievements of the recipient in Citizenship, Attitude, Academics, Character, Service, Leadership and Sportsmanship.

Ashley also auditioned, was selected, and participated in the Spring 2000 N.C. All State String Orchestra (violin).

She has received straight As in the Academically Gifted Student program since the 4<sup>th</sup> grade, participated at the WRGM TV station, an in-school television program, and is currently playing fast-pitch softball for the Port City Pythons 14-under traveling softball team.

So, did she receive any awards in softball? Well of course she did! In the 99-00 season, Ashley is the recipient of the Co-MVP award for outstanding leadership and performance. She is also the overall female athletic recipient of Coaches Hustle Award for outstanding performance, dedication, and love of the game. Ashley helped lead her team to the championship with a season record of 10 wins and 0 losses.

### Adams's accolades--

Christopher Adams graduated from Hoggard High School as a North Carolina Scholar and a Presidential Scholar. He has been accepted into the Honors Program at East Carolina University and will be majoring in Computer Science.

Elizabeth Adams graduated from the eighth grade at Roland Grise Middle School. Also as a North Carolina Scholar and a Presidential Scholar. She will be attending Hoggard High School.

### Never give up!

Trista Jade Pearson, daughter of Susan Dwyer, Public Affairs office

finished her High School Diploma on A Honor Roll. She plans to start the Paralegal Course at Cape Fear Community College in the Fall.

### Dancing her way into our hearts -

Elizabeth Fauser, 12-year-old daughter of Dee Dee Fauser, Office of Counsel, recently competed in several regional talent competitions. Elizabeth, who has been clogging for 5 years, dances with two teams at 5.6.7.8...Dance, the Gold Star Cloggers and the Teen Performing Company. She also performs a duet with Christie Englehart. Both teams achieved either Platinum or Gold level awards for their entries at each competition, and the Gold Star team will be competing at the Nationals in July, a portion of which will be televised. The duet finished the season at Showstoppers in Myrtle Beach, with a Platinum trophy and 3<sup>rd</sup> place overall in the Duet/Trio Junior Division, which had approximately 50 entries, including jazz, tap and ballet.

### Corps students graduate--

Congratulations to all the resourceful and wonderful student co-ops and aids who have graduated, and that bless this district:

#### From Shaw University:

Cheryl Parks, LaTanya Williams, Darrell Johnson

#### From Cape Fear Community College:

Calvin Flanagan, Missy Shuford,

#### From UNCW:

Tim Wilson, Jocelyn Gaines, Susan Dwyer

#### Congratulations to:

**Rachel Alsmeyer**, 9, daughter of Eric Alsmeyer in the Raleigh Regulatory Field Office, participated in the National Federation of Music Teachers local competition on her violin, and for the third straight year received the highest rating Superior

## A retiree w rites to us -

Bob Swart invites retirees to come on out for lunch every month. This month the Wilmington District News received a wonderful letter from one of our retirees who is having a busy time in Oklahoma.

Don Haden, who retired in 1994 from the Falls Lake Project, tells us that he moved west, bought a ranch,

and began raising horses and cattle. He and his wife adopted James Spencer Haden, 10, and Justin Levi Haden, 5, in August of 1999. They have brought much joy to the Haden family. Don is coaching basketball and soccer, driving a schoolbus, raising the cattle and tending the ranch.

"Who said retirement was bor-

ing?" Don adds. He invites you all to visit or write to him and Virginia—

Mr & Mrs Donald E. Haden  
Route 2, Box 403  
Cleaveland, OK 74020

Email ginapps@aol.com

# RETIREE

## NEWS



*By Bob Swart*

We had a pretty good gathering of 20 attendees at this month's luncheon. Attending were: Bettye and Bob Swart, Dan Grimley, Edith and Jim Vithalani, Max Grimes, Joe Lewis, Doris and Ken Old, Lloyd Tyndall, Lawrence Crawley,

Sylvia and Rex Phillips, along with their granddaughter Lauren, Henry Jerome, and last but not least, Billie Burnett.

Billie was in attendance to give old retirees a run-down on what is happening in the District. She was acting more as a scout, to find out what we would like to hear from the District's current senior leaders at future meetings. We appreciated that she came to the

meeting—to hear from the District helps this writer to better appreciate his status as a retiree!

Bettye and Bob have finally finished their effort with the Census Bureau. That was a rather interesting job, but not one to have to do for an extended period of time. Last year in the June report, Edith Vithalani was starting her efforts to become an American Citizen. On June 28<sup>th</sup>, she goes to take her exam. We wish her the very best in her endeavor!

Buddy Johnson stated that he was involved in a lot of care-giving efforts these days. Kay goes out and twists her knee while trying to play with the grandchildren on the beach, therefore requiring additional attention. His sister and her husband, who live close by, also need his assistance because of declining health.

An anonymous comment was put in the sign-in book which said "Work, Work, Work, some golf, some fishing." Lloyd, I think we figured that one out pretty quickly!

You folks out there in the field, if you are in the vicinity around the first Thursday in July (the 6<sup>th</sup>) on your Independence Day vacation, drop by to see us!

U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT,  
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**Wilmington  
District News**